

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

1/28/2015

Please pass this email to itinerant teachers of students with visual impairments (TVIs) who may be working within your school district.

Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2015 1:12 PM **On Behalf Of** Cyral Miller

Subject: COSB-Outreach Fwd: VISSIT Participant Recruitment Email

We are looking for volunteers!

Dear Outreach Personnel,

I am requesting that you please distribute this email to all of the itinerant teachers of students with visual impairments (TVIs) in your state.

We would like to have any TVIs who work in an itinerant service delivery model use the *VISSIT* (*Visual Impairment Scale of Service Intensity of Texas*) this semester to determine the type and amount of itinerant TVI service to recommend for his or her students and to participate in our continuing validation study of the tool. **The *VISSIT* is a newly developed tool to assist a TVI in making recommendations for the type and amount of service that are more objective and quantifiable and that are based on student need.** We need as many TVIs as possible to use the scale and participate in the study to increase the validity and reliability of the *VISSIT*.

Participation only requires that:

(1) the TVI use the *VISSIT* to determine service time for at least one student this school year (or as many students as you want),

(2) the TVI submit a copy of any completed *VISSITs* (with no identifying student information) to a designated email address, and

(2) the TVI is willing to complete a short electronic survey on your use of the *VISSIT* toward the end of spring semester 2015.

If you are an itinerant TVI and are willing to participate in this study so that we can get feedback from more *VISSIT* users, you just need to email me (rona.poggrund@ttu.edu) indicating your willingness to participate, and that will serve as your consent, and you will receive an email indicating the email address to upload your completed *VISSITs*, and upon receipt of your scale(s), you will get another email with a link to the electronic survey later in the school year after you have submitted your completed *VISSITs*.

An electronic pdf (that automatically adds up scores) and a Word version of the *VISSIT* (along with background and instructions for using the scale, FAQs, and sample *VISSITs*) can be found at: <http://www.tsbvi.edu/vissit>.

There is no compensation for your participation. You will receive the added benefit of the use of a new evaluation tool used to help determine TVI service time during this study. There is a hope that you will benefit from the use of this tool in making decisions about delivering services as an itinerant TVI by the end of the study.

You may stop participating at any time in the study if you become uncomfortable completing the study. You can leave the study any time you wish. You will keep the benefits of participating even if you stop. Participation is your choice.

The study is being run by Dr. Rona Pogrund from the Special Education Program in the College of Education at Texas Tech University. If you have any questions about the study, you can contact Rona Pogrund at the email address above or at [512-206-9213](tel:512-206-9213).

TTU also has a Board that protects the rights of people who participate in research. You can ask questions of the Board at [806-742-2064](tel:806-742-2064) or to hrrp@ttu.edu. You can also mail your questions to the Human Research Protection Program, Office of the Vice President for Research, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, 79409.

We hope that your participation can help us understand more about how to help you determine your students' needed TVI service time. We appreciate your willingness to participate in this study.

Sincerely,

Rona Pogrund, Principal Investigator

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